

**REMARKS**

At the outset, Applicant thanks the Examiner for examining the pending application. The Office Action dated April 28, 2009 has been received and its contents carefully reviewed.

Claims 1-9 are rejected. Applicant has amended claims 1, 5, 8 and 9 to further define the invention. No new matter has been added.

The Office Actions rejects claims 1-4 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Duijneveldt (US Patent 5,975,722 A), rejects claims 5-7 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Duijneveldt (US Patent 5,975,722), and rejects claim 8 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Duijneveldt (US Patent 5,975,722 A), and rejects claim 9 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Duijneveldt (US Patent 5,975,722 A).

Reexamination and reconsideration of the pending claims are respectfully requested.

Claims 8 and 9 are objected to because of informalities. The amendments to claims 8 and 9 make this objection moot.

Claims 1 and 5 are allowable over the cited references in that claims 1 and 5 recites a combination of elements including, for example, "wherein a low voltage of an AC voltage is directly and in common applied to the plurality of low voltage electrodes of odd-numbered lamps at the first side and the plurality of low voltage electrodes of even-numbered lamps at the second side, and wherein a high voltage of the AC voltage is directly and in common applied to the plurality of high voltage electrodes of even-numbered lamps at the first side and the plurality of high voltage electrodes of odd-numbered lamps at the second side".

Claims 8 and 9 are allowable over the cited references in that claims 8 and 9 recites a combination of elements including, for example, "wherein the lamps have odd-numbered lamps with N-number adjacent to one another (where N is a positive integer more than 2) and even-numbered lamps with N-number adjacent to one another (where N is a positive integer more than 2) alternately arranged, wherein a low voltage of an AC voltage is directly and in common applied to the plurality of low voltage electrodes of odd-numbered lamps with the N-number at the first side and the plurality of low voltage electrodes of even-numbered lamps with the N-number at the second side, and wherein a high voltage of the AC voltage is directly and in common applied to the plurality of high voltage electrodes of even-numbered lamps with the N-number at the first side and the plurality of high voltage electrodes of odd-numbered lamps with the N-number at the second side".

Firstly, in the claimed invention, a low voltage of an AC voltage is directly and in common applied to the plurality of low voltage electrodes of odd-numbered lamps at the first side and the plurality of low voltage electrodes of even-numbered lamps at the second side, and a high voltage of the AC voltage is directly and in common applied to the plurality of high voltage electrodes of even-numbered lamps at the first side and the plurality of high voltage electrodes of odd-numbered lamps at the second side.

On the contrary, in Duijneveldt, a first power source 8 is supplied to an end portion(a) of a lamp 4 and an end portion(a) of lamp 4''. But, the first power source 8 is not supplied to an end portion(b) of the lamp 4, an end portion(a) of a lamp 4', an end portion(b) of the lamp 4', an end portion(a) of a lamp 4'', an end portion of the lamp 4'' and an end portion(b) of the lamp 4''. Likewise, a second power source 9 is supplied to an end portion(a) of a lamp 5 and an end portion(a) of a lamp 5''. But, the second power source 9 is not supplied to an end portion(b) of the lamp 5, an end portion(a) of a lamp 5', an end portion(b) of the lamp 5', an end portion(a) of a lamp 5'', an end portion(b) of the lamp 5'' and an end portion of the lamp 5''.

Thus, Duijneveldt fails to disclose this feature of the claimed invention.

Secondly, in the claimed invention, all of odd-numbered lamps and even-numbered lamps are driven by one power source (AC voltage).

On the contrary, in Duijneveldt, two power sources 8 and 9 are provided. Thus, lamps 4, 4', 4'' and 4''' are driven by a first power source 8, while lamps 5, 5', 5'' and 5''' are driven by a second power source 9.

Regarding claims 8 and 9

In the claimed invention, odd-numbered lamps with N-number adjacent to one another and even-numbered lamps with N-number adjacent to one another are alternately arranged.

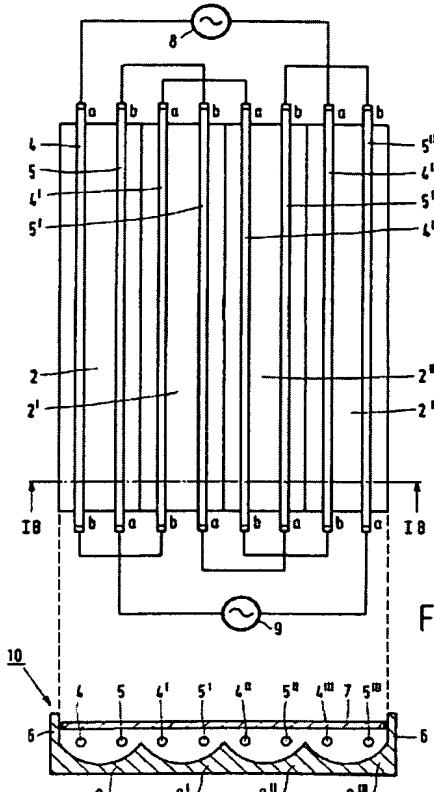


FIG. 1A

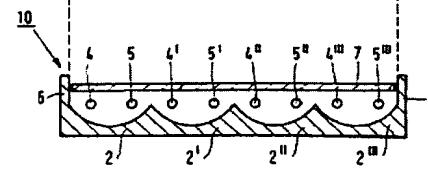


FIG. 1B

On the contrary, in Duijneveldt, lamps 4, 4', 4" and 4"" and lamps 5, 5', 5" and 5"" are alternately arranged. That is, there are arranged in orders of lamp 4, lamp 5, lamp 4', lamp 5', lamp 4", lamp 5", lamp 4"" and lamp 5"". Thus, Duijneveldt fails to disclose odd-numbered lamps with N-number adjacent to one another and/or even-numbered lamps with N-number adjacent to one another of the claimed invention.

Thus, Duijneveldt fails to teach or suggest this feature of the claimed invention. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1, 5, 8 and 9 and claims 2-4, 6 and 7, which depend therefrom, are allowable over the cited references.

Applicants believe the application is in condition for allowance and early, favorable action is respectfully solicited.

If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at (202) 496-7500 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance. All correspondence should continue to be sent to the below-listed address.

If these papers are not considered timely filed by the Patent and Trademark Office, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. §1.136, and any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 for any necessary extension of time, or any other fees required to complete the filing of this response, may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0911. Please credit any overpayment to deposit Account No. 50-0911.

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Respectfully submitted,



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